REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-7 are pending in the application including claims 3-7 withdrawn from consideration; reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.
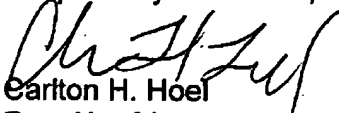
Claims 1-2 were rejected as anticipated by Bandera. The Examiner pointed to column 3, line 45-column 4, line 11 and column 4, lines 44-67.

With regard to claim 1, applicants reply that Bandera (column 4, lines 9-12) has the disk controller requesting a next read command, and the disk adapter sending the minimal slack-time read command. Thus the disk controller does not schedule anything, the disk adapter has already prioritized the read commands in terms of slack time.

With regard to claim 2, applicants reply that the disk controller in Bandera does not decode but rather just reads the disk; the receiving station performs the decoding as noted at column 1, lines 31-32. Indeed, the (undisclosed) operations within the receiving station seem more pertinent.

The appendix contains proposed drawing changes to add "prior art" in Figs. 24-27.

Respectfully submitted,

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